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in the manner of teaching the history of the American Revolution in our schools. Drawing his data from some ninety-three text-books, forty of which were in use twenty years ago, and the remaining fifty-three in use at present, he establishes some significant results. Of these, he finds that fourteen of the older and fifteen of the newer books deal fully with the grievances of the colonists, but make no reference to general political conditions in England prior to the American Revolution, nor to any prominent Englishman—like Pitt, Burke, Fox, and Barré—who defended the American cause. Seven of the old and five of the new mention Pitt only, but do not explain English political conditions. A small minority present those facts about British sympathizers with the American cause and their temporary political helplessness which alone can give an American reader a proper understanding of the Revolution. The distribution of the text-books of these several types in the great cities of America is given so that one may estimate the location and extent of the malign influence of the books which teach the subject in such a way as to prejudice the child's mind against England. A large part of the volume is devoted to giving extracts from the various books of the differing types. The total result is to give definite and concrete proof of an evil educational tendency of which many have been long but only vaguely aware. The book is a compilation with a moral which Professor Shotwell draws in his excellent introduction, wherein he points out that the Great War has shown the importance of the teaching of history in the formation of national ideas. He might have clinched that assertion by showing how the German to-day bases his curious arguments as to his mission in this war on premises taught him during childhood, premises unconsciously assumed by him as axiomatic but regarded by the rest of the world as unthinkable. Mr. Shotwell says fairly that text-books have as a rule been the product of limited knowledge of the actual facts, that they have for the most part persisted in perpetuating ancient, uncriticized traditions which have accumulated since the events themselves. He is perfectly right, but let him assume the rôle of a reformer and learn to his sorrow how the publisher will attack at every point the effort to tell the real and essential things in his country's history, and how having gotten through that stone wall with a small remnant of his convictions he will find that the school teachers and normal professors and all the horde of pedagogical experts will array themselves against the little truth that is left because it is not the conventional thing, the history which has been taught in the past.

C. H. VAN TYNE.

Official Letter Books of W. C. C. Claiborne, 1801-1816. Edited by DUNBAR ROWLAND, B.S., LL.B., LL.D., Director Mississippi Department of Archives and History. In six volumes. (Jackson,

Mississippi: State Department of Archives and History. 1917. Pp. viii, 394; 394; 399; 423; 468; 400.)

ALL persons who have had occasion to delve into the history of the lower Mississippi Valley will welcome this publication. In this number the reviewer includes that wider circle who have profited from the energy and foresight with which Dr. Rowland has collected and published historical material, as well as that smaller group of investigators who have experienced his courteous welcome within the model department at Jackson. Members of the latter group have long known that the publication of the "Letter Books" of Governor Claiborne was the director's cherished project. They recognize the importance of the collection and of the executive whose name it bears. They know something of his career as the second governor of Mississippi Territory and later as chief executive of Orleans Territory and of the state of Louisiana. They regard the problems of his sixteen years of service as among the most important connected with American expansion, for they included the more thorough establishment of national control in the Old Southwest, the settlement of the controversies arising from the Louisiana Purchase, the occupation of the trans-Mississippi region and its defense during the second war with Great Britain, and the control of a polyglot frontier population and the suppression of filibustering among its more restive elements. All these general movements in their manifold phases receive detailed attention in the correspondence of Claiborne and those who were aware of this fact will hasten to congratulate Dr. Rowland for making these letters accessible to a wider circle of investigators.

No two persons would edit such a monumental work in precisely the same way. The reviewer, therefore, who fully recognizes its general value, may be pardoned if he ventures to point out certain features in which he thinks it might have been greatly improved. This is notably true of the bibliography. In an appendix the editor presents a list of books, newspapers, and manuscripts relating to the period of Claiborne's activity, but one notes some conspicuous omissions. He also gives a list of the West Florida papers taken from the Pickett Collection in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. A list of other important collections as noted below, would have been equally serviceable. He fails to tell us that he had previously published a portion of the present work (I. 1-284) in his *Mississippi Territorial Archives* (I. 342-603); and another portion (III. 35-121 of the present publication) in his *Third Annual Report* (pp. 108-169), as director of the Department of Archives and History. Both of these earlier publications also contain correspondence of Claiborne's fellow executives in Mississippi Territory that will be useful in connection with the present work. The *Third Annual Report* also lists (pp. 180-200, 212-234) the Claiborne material and this must serve as a table of contents for the present work. One notes that the editor has avoided some minor errors in dates and spelling that occurred in these lists and that the most conspicuous gap in them (*Third*

Annual Report, p. 218) is now represented by a fairly continuous series of letters (IV. 123 to V. 81) supplied from material that later came to light. Dr. Rowland does not mention this fortunate find nor does he add to the brief account of the Claiborne Collection given in his *Fourth Annual Report* (p. 29).

The reviewer feels that Dr. Rowland has dismissed too lightly the material of co-ordinate character in the Bureau of Rolls and Library, Department of State. The six volumes of the "Claiborne Correspondence", together with some kindred material in that repository, are mentioned in Van Tyne and Leland's *Guide to the Archives . . . in Washington* and the contents are listed in Parker's *Calendar of Papers . . . relating to the Territories of the United States*. By making use of these aids in connection with the published *Letter Books* the careful student may learn whether he can pursue his further investigations to best advantage in Washington or in Jackson. But this task would have been greatly lightened and in many cases rendered unnecessary had the present work included all the unduplicated Claiborne material in both places. The Washington repository is more likely to contain the originals of the correspondence and these originals are accompanied by enclosures that often were not retained by Claiborne or his representatives. On the other hand the manuscript "Letter Books" contain some local material that does not appear in Washington. It seems a pity that two complementary collections of such intrinsic value were not combined in the present work. Possibly consideration of expense or some local restriction prevented this; but at least the table of contents of the two collections should have been listed, preferably in parallel columns, and in the body of the work, either in the foot-notes or in the heading of each document, all duplicates should have been noted (possibly by the numbers in Parker's *Calendar*). No statement, in preface or foot-note, shows that the copy prepared from the "Letter Books" was collated with duplicate letters elsewhere. The meticulous student must content himself with the assumption that he has before him the carefully edited text of merely one source. Of this source and of its real value we believe he may feel reasonably certain. By resorting to Parker's *Calendar* he may get trace of other sources that were not utilized to supply *lacunae* in the present text (*e. g.*, III. 238; IV. 211). Some of the larger gaps in the correspondence (*e. g.*, I. 284; VI. 283) are evidently irremediable. The foot-notes are open to criticism—in general, because lacking specific references to authorities, although a few (as in V. 35) are misleading. The editor offers some personal opinions that are open to question. For instance, he comments altogether too favorably on Kemper (V. 133), attributes to Claiborne (IV. 344; V. 115) sentiments that the latter merely borrowed from Jefferson, and credits him with far too much influence (V. 208) in the disposal of the Florida Parishes. General references to the correspondence of Mississippi executives on file at Jackson (V. 81, 330, and elsewhere) should also indicate that some of

this material, as in the case of Claiborne's correspondence, is duplicated in the Bureau of Rolls and Library. The editor refers frequently to his "home sources", the "West Florida Papers", but, as the reviewer knows, the student will have to supplement this and the other collections in Jackson and Washington with those in Seville, before he can make a "thorough study of all sides of the controversy over West Florida and of the revolution growing out of it" (V. 81, note). Thanks to Dr. Rowland he can make an excellent start on such a study at Jackson and save much research in places where conditions are less favorable for productive work.

In foot-notes and in the heading of the separate documents the reviewer notes numerous typographical errors, misspellings, an absence of accents, the use of abbreviations in the headings, and the simple but less dignified "Thomas" Jefferson and "James" Monroe, rather than the proper title. The spelling of proper names in the text, too, brings up a difficult point. Claiborne and his contemporaries, like the majority of American officials, uniformly had a difficult time in spelling and pronouncing foreign proper names. Most of their attempts in this work can be readily interpreted, but "Quagila" (Coahuila, III. 31), "Quakin De Agarts" or "Quaquin de Ugante" (Joaquín de Ugarte, II. 374, 388), "Mondeva" (Monclova, III. 31), "Don Antonio Cowers" (Cordero, IV. 166), "Mr. Irvine" (George W. Erving, IV. 343)—to mention merely a few of their worst offenses—certainly call for the correct form either in brackets or foot-notes. Without this precaution, in far too many other cases one is uncertain whether to hold the original writer or the proof-reader responsible for the present form of words.

The volumes are of convenient size and simply but neatly bound. The type is clear and of good size and the press work well done but the printer's characters are not always intelligible. The index is satisfactory. One regrets the lack of a table of contents, which would also serve to indicate the limits of the several manuscript volumes. The editor has evidently adhered to the original order in which the documents appeared in the "Letter Books", but he would have been justified in adopting a strict chronological order, at least for the principal letters, accompanying each with the proper enclosures. The work merits the careful attention of historical scholars; and despite such criticism, of an attempted supplemental character, as the reviewer has felt called on to express, it should meet a favorable reception as a substantial contribution to the early history of the Old Southwest in the period following the transfer of Louisiana.

ISAAC JOSLIN COX.